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Question of Cyprus

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Sixty-ninth year

Letter dated 18 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 14 February 2014, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I would be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Y. Halit **Çevik**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 30 January 2014, addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the Security Council (A/68/735-S/2014/71), which yet again contains false allegations similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to underline that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and permission of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. Similarly, the accusation raised in the above-mentioned letter in relation to Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. This constitutes yet another attempt aimed at distorting the facts and the realities of the island. As noted in our previous letters, such assertions are based on the false and unlawful claim that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the whole island, including the territory, national airspace and territorial waters of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This pretentious assertion by the Greek Cypriot side ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent, self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As for the repeated false claims regarding the Ercan airport in the North, it should be once again underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre (ACC) and airport in North Cyprus have been providing successful and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island in line with its isolation policy imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC) take place with the full knowledge and consent of the TRNC Civil Aviation Department over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control.

The TRNC legislation on aeronautical safety reflects all International Civil Aviation Organization standards and recommendations, providing safe, regular and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan airport as well as using TRNC airspace. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years and the Ercan ACC is in constant and close cooperation with the Ankara ACC in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. The Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full

conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944 and is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

Continuous attempts by the Greek Cypriot side, through often-repeated false accounts, to confer legitimacy upon the long-defunct "Republic of Cyprus" are futile since the Turkish Cypriot people will never give in to their unjust demands. What would indeed contribute to a better atmosphere on the island is for the Greek Cypriot side to stop claiming for itself the rights and responsibilities it does not legally have and to cease its hostile and derogatory acts against the Turkish Cypriot people. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and has always been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey, and that its insistent denial of Turkish Cypriot rights in the north of the island does not bode well for the prospects of finding a lasting settlement of the Cyprus conflict in line with the established United Nations parameters, which envisage a new partnership on the basis of the political equality of the two peoples of the island within the framework of a bizonal, bicommunal federation with two constituent States of equal status.

Availing myself of this opportunity, I would like to call on the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue its well-known propaganda tactics and focus on the full-fledged negotiations conducted under your good offices mission for a comprehensive settlement in Cyprus without further delay. As the Turkish Cypriot side, we are con...itted to continue to maintain our constructive and positive stance and encourage our Greek Cypriot neighbours to follow a similar path.

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter were circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 42, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

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The situation in the Middle East

Report of the Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories

Identical letters dated 12 February 2014 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Syrian Arab Republic to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

During his visit to the occupied Syrian Golan on 31 January 2014, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Israeli entity made statements that reflected an insolent approach to the events in Syria and utter disdain for all United Nations resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and all other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. He called for Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights to be settled within the framework of Israeli-Palestinian negotiations and the events in Syria, and stated that that comprehensive deal must include an understanding between Israel, the international community and, first and foremost, the United States of America, that the Golan was an integral part of the State of Israel. Mr. Liberman claimed that, because of the security concerns relating to Israel's ability to defend the north of the country, the international community should recognize Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights.

It appears that Israel, the occupying Power, is not content merely to provide direct support for armed terrorist groups in Syria, but now deludes itself that it can exploit its support for the terrorist war against Syria to realize its expansionist aspirations and legitimize its occupation of the Syrian Golan, thereby blatantly disregarding all of the authoritative international resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981).

Those statements compel us to emphasize that, politically, legally and morally, it is unacceptable that Israel should be allowed to persist in its contemptuous refusal to implement United Nations resolutions on ending the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan and the other occupied Arab territories, including Security Council resolution 497 (1981). We remind concerned parties that, in resolution 497 (1981), the Security

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Council affirmed that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 to impose its laws, jurisdiction and administration in the occupied Syrian Golan was null and void and without legal effect, a stance that the General Assembly has reaffirmed annually in relevant resolutions. The most recent one, resolution 68/84, states that Israel has not yet complied with Security Council resolution 497 (1981) and that the Israeli decision of 14 December 1981 is null and void and without legal effect. It calls on Israel, the occupying Power, to rescind that decision. In paragraph 6 of its resolution 68/17, the General Assembly demands once more that Israel withdraw from all the occupied Syrian Golan to the line of 4 June 1967 in implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Forty-seven years have passed since Israel occupied the Syrian Golan. Hundreds of authoritative international resolutions have been adopted demanding an end to the occupation and to Israel's racist and inhuman policies, intensive settlement-building activities and systematic killings of civilians in the occupied Arab territories. The resolutions have condemned Israel's daily repressive practices and its blatant violations of all international instruments. Nevertheless, Israel continues to ignore all international resolutions and demands. Indeed, Mr. Liberman's statement underscores Israel's flagrant and growing disdain for Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. Protected by its supporters on the Security Council, Israel continues to disregard international law, and does so with impunity.

The Government of the Syrian Arab Republic draws the attention of the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council to those inflammatory statements and the concomitant hostile practices. It calls upon the United Nations, and particularly the Security Council, to take the necessary action to ensure compliance with its resolutions and prevail on Israel to end its occupation of the Syrian Golan and withdraw to the line of 4 June 1967. Syria reiterates that the United Nations continues to treat the Israeli occupation of the Syrian Golan as a routine matter and takes no action to enforce Security Council resolutions. This perpetuates the anomalous situation that prevails in our region, and undermines the credibility of the United Nations as a whole and its resolutions, strengthening the position of those who accuse the Organization of double standards in its dealings with the region and regional issues.

I should be grateful if you would have the text of the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 35 and 52, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mazen **Adi**
Counsellor
Chargé d'affaires a.i.